

**MARTIN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)
BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC) COMMITTEE
MEETING
MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, March 12, 2012 - 5:00 P.M.
Martin County Administration Building
Growth Management Conference Room, 1st Floor
2401 SE Monterey Road
Stuart, FL 34996
(772) 221-1498**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Ken Natoli called the meeting to order at 5:09 P.M.

2. ROLL CALL

Members in Attendance:

Mr. Ken Natoli, Vice-Chair
Mr. Joseph DeFronzo (arrived at 5:16 P.M.)
Mr. Kevin B. Edwards
Mr. Ronald Shewmaker
Mr. Rick Yost
Ms. Cheryl Lenartiene
Mr. John-Mark Palacios

Excused Members

Ms. Joan Moore, Chair
Ms. Dee Spera

Members Not In Attendance:

Mr. Hal Forslund
Mr. Robert Taylor
Mr. Jim Hudson
Ms. Dawn Arvin
Mr. Bill Schell
Mr. John Mildenerger
Mr. Edward Vossen

Officer Michael Pope, (ex-Officio)
Officer James C. Brooks, (ex-Officio)
Mr. Eric Cerniglia

Staff in Attendance:

Ms. Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator
Ms. Margaret H. Brassard, Administrative Specialist II
Mr. Gavin Jones, Senior Planner

A quorum was not present initially for the meeting. Approval of the Agenda and Minutes did not take place until after the presentation. A quorum was present at 5:16 P.M.

3. FDOT COMMENTS

Mr. John-Mark Palacios, from FDOT commented on a follow up regarding a small white sign on SR 76 he concurred that the sign is too small and needs to be replaced. He stated that a resurfacing project will be transpiring in approximately one year and that sign will be slated for replacement with the large, standard yellow sign.

Mr. Palacios commented on the grate on east Monterey Road, before the YMCA but just passed Old Dixie Highway. He stated that after inspection, it was deemed to be bicycle safe unless he was looking at an incorrect grate. Mr. Palacios requested that a photo of the grate be brought in so that he can insure that he viewed the grate in question. Ms. Beltran stated that as this was a concern of Mr. DeFronzo's she will contact him to advise of this finding and see if he would like to bring in a photo of the grate in question.

4. AGENDA ITEMS

A. EAST COAST GREENWAY TRAIL – PRESENTATION

MEMO: temp12BPACa06.01

Mr. Herb Hiller, with the East Coast Greenways Alliance (ECGA) introduced himself as a long time Floridian, cyclist, trail advocate, and resident in Deland, Florida. He is a writer and has worked with the ECGA for six years, and has served on the Board for the American of Youth Hostels for 30 years. He stated that the ECGA initiated as an idea of people who were just sitting around musing, when one person said to the other that it would be nice if they could ride their bicycle from Maine to Key West, Florida. To date, the trail is approximately 25% in place. He stated that it is interesting because after 20 years of non-profit status, and very limited staff, it is happening. He clarified that the Alliance does not build trails, whether they are walking/cycling or paddling trails. He stated that it is the people who want the trails and are willing to advocate and tax themselves for them who get them built because the trails provide an alternative to using automobiles. People find their own reasons for the trails. He stated that the ECGA is a national organization but it is only north and south, from Maine to Florida, it does not go from East to the West. He stated that the focus has been on long distance trails and loops. Some cyclists will chose the long distance as others will need to only use the loops for time or location constraints. He noted that the logo for the ECGA is a top to bottom mirror image of a pine tree which also indicates North to South.

Mr. Hiller stated that a 1.2 mile gap has recently been completed in the North side of Dadeland. He stated that the trail now spans 30 miles from the south bank of Miami to Florida City. He noted thinking multi-modally, a person

may put their bicycle on Tri-Rail in West Palm Beach, Florida, get off at the junction of Tri-Rail and Metro-Rail, travel through downtown Miami and get on the greenway trail. Regional travel is becoming more realistic multi-modally. The ECGA is trying to encourage businesses to build showers in the workplace to encourage riding bicycles as people are more inclined to ride to work if there were an area where they could clean up after the ride, before beginning to work. Mr. Hiller noted that in the future, when the multi-modal station has been completed in Miami, there will be bicycles available to rent so people can ride to their destination or enjoy a biking vacation.

Mr. Hiller stated that of the 600 miles of trails proposed in Florida, approximately 200 have been completed. He stated that Martin County has been proactive in this milestone between the Green River Parkway and the proposed Jonathon Dickenson State Park. He credited Commissioner Sarah Heard for working towards this goal.

Mr. Hiller noted that on May 10, 2012 at 10:00 A.M. the Office of Greenway Trails (OGT) and the ECGA will co-jointly present the first webinar about the ECGA in Florida. They are trying to get the word out and are seeking to expand their list of business people and volunteers to work with them in seeking promotion of the trail, location and creation. In October, 2013 they plan to hold an Eco-Expo. He stated that the date and location have not been finalized, but it's almost certain that it will be held in West Palm Beach, Florida. Mr. Hiller also noted that not all of the trails have been signed and the ECGA welcomes the MPOs to purchase a sign on the trail for \$10.00. These signs will let the visitors know that it is a national trail.

In closing, Mr. Hiller stated that he will send out the benchmarks so the committee can see how far the ECGA has come and how far they still have to go. He thanked the committee for inviting him to make a presentation about the ECGA.

Mr. Natoli expressed his thanks to Mr. Hiller for the presentation. He asked Mr. Hiller how to locate the ECGA maps of the trails on the computer. Mr. Hiller stated that he regrets that the information is not extremely current, but that one could go to www.greenway.org/index.shtml in order to see a general map and navigate around on that website to obtain other information,

Mr. Natoli inquired as to where the ECGA gets their funding. Mr. Hiller stated that some funds come from MPO's in the New England area, donations, fundraisers, and Memberships which are offered.

Mr. Hiller stated that ECGA has a cartographer, Eric Wise, who makes the maps. He may be reached at EricWeis@greenways.com. Another website address you can check out is <http://www.visitflorida.com/trails/>.

Mr. Edwards asked if other agencies could promote the trails using the ECGA logo. Mr. Hiller stated that they would be happy for people to promote the logo.

Mr. Hiller was asked what the standard for the trail is and who maintains them. Mr. Hiller stated that Mr. Weis has a list of the actual standards, but the trails are either paved, or off road, and between 8 and 10 feet wide.

It was asked how a copy of the benchmarks of the ECGA could be obtained. Mr. Hiller stated that staff could send an email to him and he would get the information to this committee as well as the information to purchase the trail signs.

Mr. Edwards asked if the signs which are for sale, are for marking along the trail or is it a sign of the trail crossing. Mr. Hiller stated that he's unaware of any other trail crossings, and if a sign is purchased that it could be stipulated that the sign be displayed in Martin County. The purchaser may determine where the sign would go.

Mr. Hiller stated that the greenway is intended to connect cities, use intermodal transportation and to get people out of their vehicles. There is nothing quite like the trail either.

Mr. Edwards inquired what was happening with the Seabranh Trail. Ms. Beltran stated that there is an advisory committee set up for this trail. Ms. Heard is the Chair of this committee. They are working out the issues between the neighbors and the pathway alignment. Mr. Edward inquired if this was a designated section of the greenway, to which Ms. Beltran confirmed. Mr. Edwards asked, upon learning that a quorum was currently seated, if the committee would like to endorse the MPO purchasing signage to be placed on this designated section. Ms. Beltran stated that the motion would be better made after the trail is in place as there have been numerous issues. In the meantime, it was requested that staff go to the website to get an idea as to how the signs look. It was noted that there are signs on the Green River Parkway, if someone wished to see them.

Mr. Edwards noted that some areas of the Seabranh Trail (Gomez area) will only be about six feet and that doesn't meet the standard. Mr. Palacios stated that the trail goes from six to ten feet in that area. Mr. Palacios stated that they may use Gomez Road as an interim trail, as riding the road right there is a low traffic area.

**B. BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ACTION PLAN –
NEXT STEPS**

MEMO: temp12BPACa06.02

This Item was tabled as the presenter, Mr. Michael Malham was not available.

5. APPROVE AGENDA

Ms. Beltran stated that since Mr. Malham was not at this meeting that approval of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan be tabled until the next meeting. The committee agreed.

A motion to approve the Agenda and move to table the Bicycle and Pedestrian Action Plan to the next meeting was made by Mr. Kevin Edwards. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cheryl Lenartiene. There were no objections. The motion passed unanimously.

6. APPROVE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on February 13, 2012 was made by Mr. Joe DeFronzo. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rick Yost. There were no objections. The motion passed unanimously.

7. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Natoli stated that the committee members need to bring in staff from the Engineering and Planning Departments so that some of the projects that are listed in the BPAC Action Plan can get moving.

Ms. Beltran stated that as Mr. DeFronzo was now in attendance that Mr. Palacios should advise him of the grate on Monterey Road. Mr. Palacios stated that the grate looked bicycle safe. Mr. DeFronzo and Mr. Palacios agreed to meet after the meeting and go look at the grate together.

Mr. Edwards inquired as to the Build-A-Bike. Ms. Margaret Brassard stated that she has been in contact with Gordon and Doner and has gotten no response to date. There has been some uncertainty as to the race location which has caused some major delays in public advertisement and location confirmation may not be obtained until April. Ms. Brassard will advise the club once a firm answer, either way, has been obtained.

Mr. Edwards asked as to the recipient of the bikes, is the committee going with the Boy's and Girl's Club again? He noted that maybe more communication between the Boy's and Girl's Club should take place to insure that no bikes are issued to any child who already has a bike. Information from Ms. Moore as to the Boy's and Girl's Club's contact should be shared with the committee in the event that she were to be out for an extended period of time for continuity.

8. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

9. NOTES

None.

10. NEXT MEETING

- March 12, 2012 (Regular)
- April 9, 2012 (Regular)

11. ADJOURN

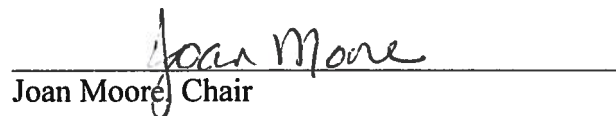
The meeting was adjourned at 6:21 PM by a motion from Ms. Lenartiene followed by a second from Mr. Natoli. There being no objections the meeting adjourned.

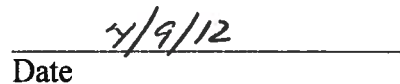
Recorded and Prepared by:


Margaret H. Brassard, Administrative Specialist, II


Date

Approved by:


Joan Moore, Chair


Date